

Serial No. 10/734,266
Response dated April 5, 2005 in
Reply to Office Action of March 7, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A cleaning device for use with a floating member that extends below a fluid surface level in a recirculating fluid system containing surface contaminants, said cleaning device comprising:

an absorbent body member having an active surface portion adapted to operatively absorb said surface contaminants from said fluid surface level; and

a securing means for removably securing said absorbent body member to said floating member with said active surface portion in contactable relation to ~~and for ensuring buoyancy of said absorbent body member substantially adjacent to and in floating relation with~~ said fluid surface level, said securing means comprising a substantially central aperture formed at least partway through a bottom surface of said absorbent body member to provide a substantially continuous interior securing surface, with said substantially continuous interior securing surface being adapted to removably secure said absorbent body member to said floating member in substantially fixed relation thereto.

Claim 2 (previously cancelled).

Claim 3 (previously amended): A cleaning device according to claim 1, wherein said absorbent body member comprises a porous absorbent material.

Claim 4 (original): A cleaning device according to claim 3, wherein said active surface

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portion comprises a furrowed surface portion adapted to absorb said surface contaminants.

Claim 5 (original): A cleaning device according to claim 4, wherein said furrowed surface portion comprises two or more regularly dimensioned furrow segments.

Claim 6 (previously amended): A cleaning device according to claim 5, wherein said absorbent body member has a substantially circular plan outline, with each of said furrow segments operatively extending upward from said fluid surface level, and extending radially inward along a top surface of said absorbent body member.

Claim 7 (original): A cleaning device according to claim 6, wherein said interior securing surface is shaped and dimensioned to removably secure said absorbent body member to said floating member by frictional means.

Claim 8 (original): A cleaning device according to claim 7, wherein said absorbent body member is adapted to be cleaned and reused.

Claim 9 (previously amended): A cleaning device according to claim 8, wherein, when said absorbent body member is secured to said floating member, said absorbent body member is adapted to resist being drawn into a flow inlet of said recirculating fluid system.

Claim 10 (original): A cleaning device according to claim 9, wherein said substantially central aperture is formed completely through said absorbent body member from said bottom surface.

Claim 11 (previously amended): A cleaning device according to one of claims 9 and 10, wherein said porous absorbent material is selected from the group consisting of natural sponges, open-cell oil-absorbing foam, compressible open-cell polyolefin foam,

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polyethylene foam, closed-cell foam, and combination open and closed cell foam.

Claims 12-18 (withdrawn).